

APR 10 2007

Attorney's Docket No.: 34874-068 /2003P00059US

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the current application are requested. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-20 are rejected under section 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Westerman (U.S. Patent No. 6,404,443) in view of Young (U.S. Patent No. 6,177,933). These rejections are traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite generating a background region for the GUI for each object group based on the assigned graphic pattern for the corresponding relationship for the object group, and generating the GUI having at least two concurrently displayed and non-overlapping background regions each including one or more related graphical structures (for support, see, inter alia, FIG. 3).

Westerman describes an arrangement in which different planes or windows each include a tab (which may be different colored), the activation of which, causes the corresponding plane or window to be displayed (see, inter alia, Westerman FIG. 3). There is no suggestion within Westerman that such planes have background regions include graphically distinct patterns and that the background regions are non-overlapping. Moreover, as correctly pointed out, Westerman fails to disclose that certain objects that are grouped together can be displayed according to their corresponding object group relationships.

Young describes an arrangement in which visual continuity can be maintained for data sets that extend onto multiple pages. Data on a first page can be assigned a first display location and data on a second page can be assigned a second display location so that the first and second

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pages appear to overlay one another (see, inter alia, Young claim 1). Moreover, Young fails to disclose or even suggest that graphic patterns can be assigned to each group of graphical user interface objects.

The skilled artisan would not have been motivated to combine Westerman with Young as Westerman is directed to a graphical user interface for managing screen objects while Young is directed to a technique for making data from different pages appear to overlap. A person seeking to modify the GUI of Westerman would not have considered adapting Young as it relates not to objects in an interface, but simply to how data is being displayed.

Even if such references were combined, the skilled artisan would not have resulted in the recited subject matter because neither reference discloses or even suggests background regions including graphically distinct patterns and that the background regions are non-overlapping. In addition, the references fail to disclose or suggest that graphic patterns can be assigned to each group of graphical user interface objects.

As a result, claims 1, 11, and their respective dependent claims as well as claim 20 are allowable.

Moreover, new claim 21, which is based, in part, on FIGs. 2-3 is also not disclosed or even suggested by Westerman or Young, whether considered in combination or otherwise.

Concluding Comments

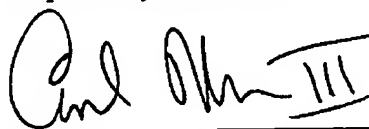
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending

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claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.

If there are any questions regarding the response, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the additional claim fee and any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 34874-068.

Respectfully submitted,



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